



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

# Memorandum

Subject USCG/FHWA Procedures for Handling Projects  
which Require a USCG Bridge Permit

Date OCT 11 1983

From Director, Office of Environmental Policy  
Director, Office of Engineering  
Washington, D.C.

Reply to  
Attn of HEV-11/HNG-31

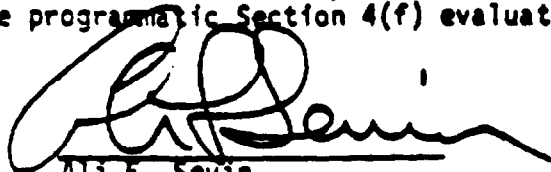
Regional Federal Highway Administrators,  
Regions 1-10, and Direct Federal Program Administrator

In our October 25, 1982, memorandum, we provided information regarding coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard in developing projects which require a U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Permit. The need for early and continuing coordination with the Coast Guard throughout the project development process was stressed.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed and approved a programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation for certain federally assisted highway projects that affect bridges on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation and approval was distributed with Mr. Sevin's July 20, 1983, memorandum. We have met with the Coast Guard Washington Headquarters staff and discussed how the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation will be used. The Coast Guard Headquarters staff has indicated it will accept the programmatic Section 4(f) approach as complying with Section 4(f) requirement; however, it would like to be fully apprised of the status of the project as it moves from planning to the permit stage. Accordingly, we have modified Attachment A to the October 25 memorandum to add two additional steps. A revised copy of Attachment A is attached. Step 3(e) requires the FHWA/State to advise the Coast Guard as early as possible in the process when a project is being developed and it is anticipated the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation will be used. Step 8 was modified to ensure that the Coast Guard is provided with information to support FHWA's use of the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation.

This memorandum is not intended to require additional information to be developed but rather to keep the U.S. Coast Guard fully informed of the FHWA activities with regard to the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation.

  
David K. Phillips

  
Ali F. Sevin

Attachment

## ATTACHMENT A

USCG/FHWA Procedures for  
Handling Projects Which Require  
a USCG Bridge Permit

Federal Highway Administration  
(FHWA/State) Activities

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)  
Activities

1. System Planning Activities

2. Project Initiation Activities

3. Preliminary Environmental/Location  
Studies

(a) Data gathering

(b) Determine if a USCG permit is  
required (see FHWA Notice  
N5140.19).

(c) If a permit is required, initial  
coordination with USCG, and request  
USCG (District) to be cooperating  
agency as per CEQ Regulations.

(d) Assess navigation needs in co-  
operation with USCG; provide  
information to USCG if  
preliminary notice is  
to be issued: i.e., plans,  
clearances, description of  
project, etc. Clarify  
environmental review scoping  
responsibilities as necessary.

(e) Advise the USCG district ASAP of  
proposed programmatic Section 4(f)

4(a) Issue draft EIS or EA and include  
discussion of navigation needs  
and potential highway impacts;  
continue coordination with  
Coast Guard.

4(b) Consider joint FHWA/State and Coast  
Guard public notice and hearing(s),  
especially in controversial cases.

3(d) Assess navigational needs  
and assist FHWA/State with  
draft EIS or EA; consider,  
as appropriate, preliminary  
public notice of project  
location(s) and evaluation of  
possible effects on waterways.  
Advise FHWA/State whether the  
proposed project meets the  
reasonable needs of navigation  
or is controversial.

4(a) Comment on navigational and  
environmental aspects of draft  
EIS or EA, concentrating on the  
bridge(s) and approaches, with  
particular emphasis on adequacy  
of proposed clearances.

4(b) Participate in joint public  
notice and hearing(s):

(1) where requested by FHWA/State,

(2) where sufficient information is  
available on a given bridge to  
warrant a separate USCG hearing.

USCG/FHWA Procedures for  
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Federal Highway Administration  
(FHWA/State) Activities

5. Select highway location and prepare final EIS or FONSI; respond to comments received on navigation and environmental aspects of highway bridges. If the USCG has not provided comments on the navigation aspects, contact the USCG and obtain their views on the adequacy of the proposed clearances.
6. Furnish preliminary final EIS or FONSI to USCG for review, as appropriate
7. Whenever practicable submit application for USCG permit. (Permit application(s) may include alternate bridge designs.) Resolve any outstanding issues.
8. FHWA approval of final EIS or FONSI. Complete submission for permit application as required. If Programmatic Section 4(f) is used, provide USCG with the supporting information for determining its applicability including alternatives, mitigation measures, and FHWA/SHPO agreement.
9. If permit has not been previously submitted, apply for permit as soon as practicable after design work commences.
10. Complete bridge design. If alternate designs submitted, notify USCG of alternate selected within 30 days of bid award.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)  
Activities

5. Upon request, assist in preparing responses to any navigational issues received on environmental document.
6. Review preliminary final EIS or FONSI and comment, as appropriate.
7. When permit application is included, review for completeness and issue formal public notice.
- 9(a) For applications submitted after approval of final EIS or FONSI, District reviews application and issues formal public notice.
- 9(b) District concurs in resolution of any outstanding issues; forwards permit application with recommendation to Washington Headquarters or acts on permit application where appropriate.